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1991/03/18

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INCOMING
TELEGRAM

PAGE 01 OF 07 ATHENS 03077 00 OF 03 181607Z 2249 EAP946Z
ACTION EUR-00

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2249 EAP946Z

INFO OCT-01 AMZ-02 [M-02] IMBS-02 J-06 N-03 PHL-03 TO-02
IC-01 VLG-02 EP-02 P-01 RA-01 EAP-01 CONG-01
/034 A3 DOR

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 AIT-03 CIAE-00 OODE-00 DPR-01 EAP-00
NA-03 H-01 IMRE-00 INR-01 IO-19 L-03 HSAE-00
NSCE-00 OIC-02 ONB-01 PA-01 PH-00 PRS-01 P-02
SNP-00 SP-00 SS-00 TRSE-00 T-01 USIC-00 /D51V
-----4EC9BD 180319Z /65 72

R 181602Z MAR 91
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4853
INFO RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY BEIJING
AIT TAIPEI 0012
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
EC COLLECTIVE

CONFIDENTIAL ATHENS 03077

FOR: EUR/SE, EUR/VE, EAP/C, EAP/K, EAP/J, EAP/VLC,
EAP/ALT, EAP/IMBS, EAP/RA, IO/UNP

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: GR, CN, TM, RS, KH, JA, CB, UNGA, ASEAN, EC, PREL
SUBJECT: CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO GREECE:
ENDING EC FENCES

1. (C) ENTIRE TEXT.

SUMMARY:

2. CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER QIAN QICHEN, AS PART OF
HIS FIRST TRIP TO EUROPE SINCE THE JUNE, 1989
TIANANMEN INCIDENT, VISITED ATHENS MARCH 6.

QIAN IN ATHENS

PRC FOREIGN
MINISTER QIAN QICHEN'S VISIT TO ATHENS ON THURSDAY,
MARCH 8--THE FIRST VISIT HERE BY A CHINESE FOREIGN
MINISTER IN SOME YEARS, AND QIAN'S FIRST TO EUROPE
SINCE THE JUNE, 1989 TIANANMEN INCIDENT. QIAN MET
WITH PRIME MINISTER MITOTAKIS, PRESIDENT KARAMANLIS,
AND FOREIGN MINISTER SAMARAS.

THE CHINESE EMBASSY HERE CIRCULATED A COPY OF A
SPEECH BY QIAN IN MADRID, PRAISING THE GOS FOR
ITS COMMITMENT TO BETTER RELATIONS AND
ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE PRC'S RELATIONS WITH THE
EC NEEDED IMPROVEMENT.

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THE GOC'S DECISION LAST YEAR TO UPGRADE ACCESS
FOR THE TAIWAN MISSION, FOR EXAMPLE, WAS BASED
STRICTLY ON THE HOPE OF ATTRACTING TRADE AND
INVESTMENT.

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SOTIRHOS

AFTER HIS MEETING WITH PRIME

MINISTER MITSOTAKIS, QIAN TOLD REPORTERS ONLY
THAT CYPRUS, AND THE PROBLEMS OF THE MIDEAST,
SHOULD BE SETTLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH UN
RESOLUTIONS. TOWARD EASTERN EUROPE, QIAN SHOWED
A SIMILARLY DETACHED ATTITUDE, COMMENTING ONLY
THAT THE REGION'S PROBLEMS STEMMED FROM ERRORS
IN CARRYING OUT REFORMS I.E., NOT FROM THE
COMMUNIST PAST.

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11. AT A JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE WITH QIAN,
SAMARAS NOTED THAT GREEK-PRC TRADE HAD REACHED
"A RECORD LEVEL" OF DOL 1.18 BILLION A YEAR, AND
SAID HE HAD ASKED QIAN TO TAKE MORE GREEN
EXPORTS.

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ATHENS SPIN-DOCTORING

12. MOST PAPERS REPORTED QIAN'S VISIT, THOUGH
THE COVERAGE REFLECTED GREEKS' LOW LEVEL OF

INTEREST IN CHINA. THE SEMI-OFFICIAL ATHENS NEW
AGENCY (ANA) CAST IT AS A DIPLOMATIC
ACCOMPLISHMENT; ANA'S DAILY BULLETIN BANNERED,
"VISITING CHINESE MINISTER BACKS GREEN STANCE ON
CYPRUS SOLUTION." REPORTING SAMARAS AND QIAN'S
JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE, ANA QUOTED PRAISE BY
SAMARAS FOR THE PRC AS "ALWAYS AT OUR COUNTRY'S
SIDE" ON CYPRUS IN THE UNSC, BUT DID NOT MENTION
WHAT IF ANYTHING QIAN SAID ON THE SUBJECT

COMMENT

13. GREEK INTEREST IN CHINA AND OTHER LYOTIC
PLACES IS LARGELY LIMITED TO PRACTICAL MATTERS

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